



THOMAS L. WELCH
CHAIRMAN

VENDEAN V. VAFIADES
DAVID P. LITTELL
COMMISSIONERS

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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SEP 26 2011

KAREN GERAGHTY
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

SEP 26 2011

FCC Mail Room

FCC Mail Room

September 19, 2011

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II
445 12th Street, SW
Suite TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Karen Majcher
Vice President of High Cost and Low
Income Division
Universal Service Administration
2000 L. Street, NW – Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Docket No. 96-45, Certification Letter Pursuant to the requirements of
47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.316, for the year 2011

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

On November 2, 1999, the FCC adopted a mechanism to provide high-cost support to non-rural carriers. *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, Ninth Report and Order and 18th Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-45 (FCC 99-306), released November 2, 1999) (Non-Rural USF Order). That Order requires states to certify that the non-rural carrier(s) in their jurisdiction will use the federal support in compliance with section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This certification letter is being submitted to satisfy that requirement.

In accordance with the requirements of that Order and 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 the Maine Public Utilities Commission certifies that all the federal high-cost funds provided to the non-rural company, Northern New England Telephone Operations, Inc.-ME, will be used in a manner consistent with the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 254(e). To the best of our knowledge, all federal high-cost support will be used only to support those services for which the support is intended. In addition, pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.316, we certify that rates in the rural areas of our non-rural company are reasonably comparable to urban rates nationally because they are below the nationwide urban rate benchmark safe harbor.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Joel Shifman at joel.shifman@maine.gov or at (207)287-1381.

Sincerely,

Karen Geraghty
Administrative Director

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Re: Docket No. 96-45, Certification Letter Pursuant to the requirements of
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Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

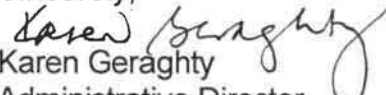
On May 10, 2001, the FCC adopted a mechanism to provide high-cost support to rural carriers. *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, 14th Report and Order and 21st Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-45 (FCC 01-157), (rel. May 10, 2001) (Rural USF Order). That Order requires states to certify that the rural carrier(s) in their jurisdiction will use the federal support in compliance with section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This certification letter is being submitted to satisfy that requirement.

In accordance with the requirements of that Order and 47 C.F.R. § 54.314 the Maine Public Utilities Commission certifies that all the federal high-cost funds provided to the our rural companies in Maine will be used in a manner consistent with the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 254(e). All federal high-cost support will be used only to support those services for which the support is intended.

A list of rural LECs in Maine to which this certification applies is attached to this letter.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Joel Shifman at joel.shifman@maine.gov or at (207)287-1381.

Sincerely,


Karen Geraghty
Administrative Director

1. **China Telephone Company**
2. **Cobbosseecontee Telephone & Telegraph Company**
3. **Community Service Telephone Company**
4. **Hampden Telephone Company**
5. **China Telephone Company**
6. **Hartland St. Albans Telephone Company**
7. **The Island Telephone Company**
8. **Lincolnton Networks, Inc.¹**
9. **Maine Telephone Company**
10. **Mid-Maine Telecom**
11. **Northland Telephone Company**
12. **Oxford Telephone Company**
13. **Oxford West Telephone Company**
14. **Pine Tree Telephone & Telegraph Company**
15. **Saco River Telegraph & Telephone Company**
16. **Sidney Telephone Company**
17. **Somerset Telephone Company**
18. **Standish Telephone Company**
19. **Tidewater Telecom, Inc.**
20. **Union River Telephone Company**
21. **Unitel, Inc.**
22. **Warren Telephone Company**
23. **West Penobscot Telephone Company**

¹ Lincolnton Networks, Inc. was designated by the Maine Public Utilities Commission as an ETC, and replaces Lincolnton Telephone Company as the ILEC in the Lincolnton service area. See *Lincolnton Telephone Company, Tidewater Telecom, Inc. & Lincolnton Networks, Inc., Application for Approvals Related to Merger of Lincolnton Telephone Company and Related Transactions*, Docket No. 2008-232, Order Approving Stipulation (August 29, 2008), attached hereto.